



Healthy Homes
Healthy Children

Lead Update

Healthy Homes: A New Vision for Making Homes Safe for Families

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Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Contacts

Family Health

(401) 222-2312

Peter Simon, MD, MPH - Medical Director
Magaly Angeloni, MBA - Program Manager
Ruth Lindberg - Outreach/Education Coordinator
Patricia Raymond, RN - Providers' Liaison

Occupational Health

(401) 222-2438

Marie Stoeckel, MPH - Chief
Rosemary Aglione, BS - Supervising Industrial Hygienist

Environmental Health Risk Assessment

(401) 222-3424

Bob Vanderslice, PhD - Chief
Daniela Quilliam, MPH - Epidemiologist

Laboratories:

(401) 222-5600

Ewa King, PhD - Environmental Sciences

Rhode Island Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
3 Capitol Hill Room 302
Providence RI, 02908-5097
(401) 222-2312

The Rhode Island Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (RI CLPPP) is working to incorporate a Healthy Homes model into its efforts to eliminate childhood lead poisoning and make homes safer for families. The Healthy Homes model explores the entire home beyond the identification of lead hazards.

Electrical hazards, injuries, pest infestations, lead hazards, contaminated water supply, flooding, mold, mildew, and poor air quality contribute to health problems of children, including asthma and other severe health related problems among families. Initial efforts toward a Healthy Homes approach include:

- Ongoing trainings with student nurses at Rhode Island College to help future visiting nurses identify health hazards within the home environment.
- Coordinating Healthy Homes trainings with the National Center for Healthy Housing for lead center staff and the Family Outreach Program's visiting nurses.
- Initiating data analyses to investigate the overlap of children with lead poisoning and asthma.
- Involving RI CLPPP staff members in statewide strategic planning efforts and other efforts to increase the amount of affordable and healthy housing that is accessible to families in the state.

The RI CLPPP looks forward to continuing to strengthen partnerships with housing and social service agencies in the state to work on this effort. If you or your agency are interested in working on healthy housing initiatives in collaboration with RI CLPPP and other partners, please contact Ruth Lindberg at RuthL@doh.state.ri.us or 401-222-7681.

PRODUCT WATCH

The following products may contain a dangerous amount of lead:

- **Lov's "Europa" Natural Color Cribs** – Recalled by the Consumer Product Safety Commission on 11/22/05. For a photo of the cribs, visit <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml06/06036.html>
 - Store(s) where sold: Toys R Us
 - Manufacturer: Delta Enterprise Corp.
- **Finger Lite Light-Up Candy Necklaces and Lite-Up Candy Rings** – Voluntarily recalled on 10/31/05.
 - Store(s) where sold: CVS, Kmart, Movie Gallery, Rite Aid, Target, Walgreen's and Wal-Mart
 - Manufacturer: Malibu Toys of California
- **Holiday mugs (footed mugs with a Santa, a tree, a snowman, etc.)**
 - Store(s) where sold: CVS
 - Manufacturer: Essex Manufacturing, Inc

Governor Carcieri Creates the Office of Housing and Community Development

Governor Carcieri recently appointed Noreen W. Shawcross as the Chief of the new Office of Housing and Community Development. Carcieri created this office in an effort to connect the different housing programs within the state government. Together they will address the problem of affordable housing in Rhode Island and lead initiatives to promote housing opportunities among residents of the state. The Division of Planning will be responsible for managing a five-year strategic housing plan, including objectives for the development of new housing and the restoration of existing housing for Rhode Island residents. Governor Carcieri believes that affordable housing is essential for residents to continue living and working in Rhode Island. The RI CLPPP looks forward to working with the Office of Housing and Community Development as we continue efforts to improve housing for families in Rhode Island and decrease lead poisoning rates in all Rhode Island communities.

The press release about this article is available at: <http://www.ri.gov/press/view.php?id=605>

Integrated Pest Management: A Healthy Benefit for Children with Asthma

A study conducted in Boston determined that Integrated Pest Management (IPM) reduces cockroach and rodent problems in homes and has tremendous effects on children who suffer from asthma. Researchers from Boston Medical Center and the Boston Public Health Commission conducted a study examining the outcomes of IPM in subsidized homes owned by the state government. The homes used in the study had significant infestations of mice and cockroaches, among other pests. At least 40 percent of the children residing in the housing suffered from asthmatic symptoms. Treatments from pest control companies, education, and renovations were used to control the infestations in each home as the study was being conducted. The result of the interventions showed a drastic drop in infestations and a direct correlation between the cockroach and mice IPM interventions and a significant reduction in asthmatic symptoms in children. A cost-benefit analysis and the need for further study are required.

For more information about this study, please contact Dr. Megan Sandel, Boston University School of Medicine, Pediatric Department at megan.sandel@bmc.org.

\$139 Million in Grants Awarded by the Office of Housing and Urban Development

The Office of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Healthy Homes has awarded grants totaling \$139 million to 26 states in an effort to improve housing for children and families. The 62 projects funded across the country will include cleaning of lead based paint hazards and education focusing on lead hazard control and the identification of lead hazards, thus promoting safer and healthier home environments.

Among the recipients awarded, the National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH) received a grant in the amount of \$520,000 under the Healthy Homes Initiative. The project will be conducted over a period of 18 months to examine the measurement and control of asthma triggers in residential properties.

Need Data?

We need your input! We are considering adding more data to our website, but we want your suggestions. What types of data would you like to see on our website? What types of reports would be useful? Please contact Daniela Quilliam at Daniela.Quilliam@health.ri.gov or 401-222-7730 with your ideas and needs.

